

Grammar Spotlight- Possessives

Nouns which show ownership or possession need to use an apostrophe to show possession. Keep in mind that a noun can possess another noun that you can't necessarily touch, own or see (freedom, atmosphere, victory).

Nouns which are plural- and end in s- don't need an apostrophe until they show ownership of another noun.

INCORRECT: The cat's are fun. The girl's are in the bathroom again.

Rules for making a noun a possessive:

1. For a singular noun, add 's, regardless of the letter it already ends with.

The cat's hairball The child's toy Charles's pen

EXCEPTION: if the 's would be the third "s" sound in the word,, just add the apostrophe.

Moses' family

2. For a plural nouns that already end in s, add just an apostrophe.

The girls' soccer team the wolves' territory the puppies' cages

3. For plural nouns that do not end in s, add 's.

Children's books mice's nest women's gloves

Practice: Add commas, semicolons, colons, and now apostrophes.

- 1. The restaurant's reputation for fish sticks is excellent.**
- 2. Several students home works were put in the basket.**
- 3. My Uncle Tom my moms brother lives in Grass Valley California.**
- 4. Sadly he lost the students essays and couldn't grade them.**
- 5. A paramedics emergency kit should include the following items a CPR mask a defibrillator and an assortment of bandaids.**
- 6. Jennfiers bicycle had flat tires she hadn't used it in months.**
- 7. Womens gloves are sized much differently than mens gloves.**
- 8. In the beginning OJs story seemed believable but as time passed his storys logic made no sense.**
- 9. An Americans freedom to vote is a privilege many countries have never experienced.**
- 9.5 Mini Coopers front seats are known for being defective; additionally, the lack of a functioning radio makes the cars squeaks and rattles seem louder!**
- 10. Tomorrows vocab quiz will have a few extra questions on commas colons semicolons and possessives know them!**

Answers:

- 1. The restaurant's reputation for fish sticks is excellent.**
- 2. Several students' home works were put in the basket.**
- 3. My Uncle Tom, my mom's brother, lives in Grass Valley, California.**
- 4. Sadly, he lost the students' essays and couldn't grade them.**
- 5. A paramedic's emergency kit should include the following items: a CPR mask, a defibrillator, and an assortment of band-aids.**
- 6. Jennfier's bicycle had flat tires; she hadn't used it in months.**
- 7. Women's gloves are sized much differently than men's gloves.**
- 8. In the beginning, OJ's story seemed believable, but as time passed, his story's logic made no sense.**
- 9. An American's freedom to vote is a privilege many countries have never experienced.**
- 9.5 Mini Coopers' front seats are known for being defective; additionally, the lack of a functioning radio makes the car's squeaks and rattles seem louder!**
- 10. Tomorrow's vocab quiz will have a few extra questions on commas, colons, semicolons, and possessives; know them!**